

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 11 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 13 and 24, claims 14, 15, and 25 have been amended to change their dependencies, claims 1-10, 13, 24, and 37-44 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 11-12, 14-23, 25-31 and 45-46 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 11, 12, 21-23 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasawa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,848,050), hereinafter “Nagasawa,” in view of Gill et al. (U.S. Patent 6,937,412), hereinafter “Gill.” The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 11, it is noted that claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 12, it is noted that this claim depends from claim 11 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 21, it is noted that claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 24. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 22, it is noted that this claim depends from claim 21 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Regarding the rejection of claim 23, it is noted that this claim depends from claim 22 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Regarding the rejection of claim 45, it is noted that this claim depends from claim 11 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Regarding the rejection of claim 46, it is noted that this claim depends from claim 21 and is, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Based on the foregoing, this rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 17-20 and 27-31 are allowable.

Claims 13-16 and 24-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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